

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15

ICA-11 IO-13 OMB-01 /091 W

-----045307 082341Z /65

R 081213Z MAY 78

FM AMEMBASSY KABUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7893

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDIP, AF

SUBJECT: CANADIAN VIEWS ON AFGHANISTAN

REF: KABUL 3574

1. TWO CANADIAN EMBASSY OFFICERS FROM ISLAMABAD CALLED ON DCM MAY 8, AFTER TRAVELING OVERLAND TO KABUL. THE OFFICERS WERE LARRY DUFFIELD, FIRST SECRETARY (COMMERCIAL), AND RONALD AUDETTE, FIRST SECRETARY (DEVELOPMENT). THEY WERE THE FIRST CANADIAN OFFICIALS TO VIST AFGHANISTAN SINCE THE COUP AND WERE HERE TO CHECK ON THE SAFETY OF THE 90- PERSON CANADIAN COMMUNITY. THEIR EMBASSY HAD RECEIVED MANY INQUIRIES FROM CANADA ABOUT WELFARE AND WHEREABOUTS. THEIR FINDINGS WERE THAT EVERYBODY WAS SAFE. THE OFFICERS DID NOT PLAN TO CALL ON GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS.

2. THEY REPORTED THAT CANADA EXTENDED RECOGNITION TO AFGHANISTAN ON MAY 6. AS FOR THE CANADIAN AID PROGRAM, OTTAWA'S INSTRUCTIONS WERE THAT EXISTING PROJECTS SHOULD BE CONTINUED, BUT NEW PROGRAMS SHOULD NOT BE NEGOTIATED NOR SHOULD NEW CANADIAN AID PERSONNEL BE SENT TO KABUL FOR THE MOMENT. AT THEIR REQUEST, THE DCM

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GAVE THEM A GENERAL BRIEFING OF THE SITUATION AND THE NEW GOVERNMENT.

3. DCM ASKED IF THEY HAD ANY NEWS ABOUT THE AFGHAN AMBASSADOR TO PAKISTAN, ETEMADI, WHO HAD BEEN ARRESTED IN KABUL. THEY SAID THEY UNDERSTOOD (LIKE US), THAT HE WAS STILL UNDER DETENTION, BUT WAS OTHERWISE WELL AND HAD MANAGED TO SEND A MESSAGE TO

HIS WIFE IN ISLAMABAD.

4. REGARDING THEIR OVERLAND TRIP, WHICH OCCURRED TWO DAYS AFTER DCM TRAVELED THE SAME ROUTE (SEE KABUL 3685 NOTAL), THEY REPORTED SOME APPARENT RELAXATION OF CHECKS ALONG THE WAY. WHILE THEY WERE STOPPED SEVERAL TIMES, INCLUDING AT THE TOP OF THE KABUL GORGE, THEY WERE ALWAYS WAVED FORWARD AS SOON AS THEIR CD LICENSE PLATES WERE NOTICED. TANKS WERE STILL IN EVIDENCE IN JALALABAD AND AT THE KABUL GORGE.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: RECOGNITION, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 may 1978
Decapton Date: 01 jan 1960
Decapton Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978KABUL03716
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780195-0415
Format: TEL
From: KABUL
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780583/aaaactcm.tel
Line Count: 72
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: f0e4b4a2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 KABUL 3574
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2764105
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CANADIAN VIEWS ON AFGHANISTAN
TAGS: PDIP, PGOV, AF, CA
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/f0e4b4a2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014